

OPINION 1244

STETHASPIS HOPE, 1837 (COLEOPTERA, SCARABAEIDAE):
DESIGNATION OF TYPE SPECIES

RULING. — (1) The nominal species *Melolontha suturalis* Fabricius, 1775, is hereby designated as type species of the nominal genus *Stethaspis* Hope, 1837.

(2) The generic name *Stethaspis* Hope, 1837 (gender: feminine), type species, under the ruling given in (1) above, *Melolontha suturalis* Fabricius, 1775, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2133.

(3) The specific name *suturalis* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Melolontha suturalis* (specific name of type species of *Stethaspis* Hope, 1837) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2848.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2130

An application for the resolution of confusion between the generic names *Costleya* and *Costelytra* (for genera within the same sub-family of Coleoptera) was first received from Dr J. C. Watt (*Mt Albert Research Centre, Auckland, New Zealand*) on 10 July 1975. After an exchange of correspondence it was sent to the printer on 29 March 1977 and published on 31 August 1977 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 34, pp. 85–87. Although the plenary powers were not invoked by the applicant, one of the possible solutions to the problem would have entailed their use. Public notice of this possibility was therefore given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory periodicals, and to seven general and seven entomological periodicals. The application was supported by Dr R. D. Pope (*British Museum (Natural History), London*). No adverse comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 25 February 1982 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1982)16 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 34, p. 87. At the close of the voting period on 25 May 1982 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes — nineteen (19) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Alvarado, Mroczkowski, Starobogatov, Willink, Trjapitzin, Tortonese, Halvorsen, Vokes, Habe, Bayer, Brinck, Welch, Sabrosky, Nye, Lehtinen, Heppell, Kraus

Negative Votes — Hahn.

Ride was on leave of absence. Corliss returned a late affirmative vote. No votes were returned by Bernardi, Binder, Cogger and Dupuis.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their votes:

Sabrosky: 'The application seems unnecessarily complex. Paragraphs 5 and 7 (on *Poecilodiscus* and *Neostethaspis*) are irrelevant to the main issue. In paragraph 10, the applicant's first possibility, that *Xylonychus eucalypti* might be designated as type species of *Stethaspis* would in fact require the use of the plenary powers. However, I do not disagree with the purpose of the application and vote to confirm *M. suturalis* as type species of *Stethaspis*.'

Hahn: '*Costelytra* and *Costleya* are not very similar names. If the Commission follows Dr Watt's proposal, many other names might also be changed.'

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Stethaspis Hope, 1837, *Coleopt. Man.*, p. 105
suturalis, *Melolontha*, Fabricius, 1775, *Syst. Entomol.*, p. 34.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P.(82)16 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1244.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

28 September 1982